

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

COA-02 CG-00 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 NEA-10 RSR-01 /135 W  
----- 013551

R 092013 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9582

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

COMICEDEFOR

NISRA KEFLAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02870

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, IC

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF: REYKJAVIK 248 AND 233

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY SIR ALEC DOUGLAS- HOME MADE  
STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT MARCH 7 IN WHICH HE REPORTED  
TRAWL WIRE CUTTING INCIDENTS OF MARCH 5 AND 6, AND  
REPORTED THAT HMG HAD PROTESTED IN BOTH LONDON AND  
REYKJAVIK. HE STATED THAT HE WAS SENDING MESSAGE TO  
ICELANDIC FOREIGN MINISTER REMINDING HIM OF HOME'S  
PROPOSAL ON JANUARY 22 THAT DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE  
RESUMED. HOME SAID HE WAS ASKING THAT DATE BE SET FOR  
DISCUSSIONS, SINCE IT OBVIOUSLY INTOLERABLE THAT PRESENT  
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SITUATION CONTINUE. HE ADDED THAT HMG HAS MADE IT CLEAR ALL ALONG THAT IT "READY TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY, INCLUDING THE USE OF THE ROYAL NAVY TO PROTECT BRITISH TRAWLERS". IN RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION HOME SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO AVAILABILITY OF MORE TUGS TO ACT AS BUFFERS AGAINST ICELANDIC GUN SHIPS AND HE REITERATED THAT IN THE LAST RESORT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO USE THE NAVY.

2. OUR CONTACT IN FCO CONFIRMED THAT HOME INDEED DISPATCHED MESSAGE ON MARCH 7. MESSAGE DELIVERED BY BRITISH EMBASSY ON MARCH 8, BUT SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM ICELANDERS. HOME'S MESSAGE WAS RELATIVELY MILD IN THAT IT REQUESTED RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSIONS AND OBSERVED THAT ALTERNATIVE IS "DETERIORATING SITUATION". MESSAGE, WHICH WAS VERY SHORT, NOTES THAT INCIDENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED ARE SERIOUS AND DRAWS ATTENTION OF ICELAND TO POSSIBILITY THAT NAVY MIGHT HAVE TO BE USED, BUT OVERALL TONE OF MESSAGE NOT THREATENING OR PROVOCATIVE.

3. WE WERE INFORMED BY FCO THAT HMG AND FRG ARE REMAINING IN CLOSE CONTACT OVER FISHERIES DISPUTE. FCO APPRECIATES THAT ICELANDERS WOULD PREFER TO SEPARATE BRITISH AND GERMANS BUT FCO DOUBTS THAT THEY HAVE MUCH CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

4. ATTITUDE CONVEYED TO US BY FCO IS ONE OF HOPING TO SOLVE DISPUTE THROUGH DISCUSSIONS. NEVERTHELESS, HMG PREPARED IN LAST RESORT TO USE ROYAL NAVY.

ANNENBERG

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 MAR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** sulserja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 73 REYKJAVIK 248, 73 REYKJAVIK 233  
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**Review Authority:** sulserja  
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**Review Date:** 20 JUL 2001  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, IC  
**To:** BONN  
BRUSSELS  
EC BRUSSELS  
EUR  
GENEVA  
NATO BRUSSELS  
OSLO

REYKJAVIK  
SECSTATE WASHDC

**Type:** TE

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